

CITY OF MANITOWOC

WISCONSIN, USA

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September 26, 2017



Alder Mike Howe, Chair
Public Safety Committee
CITY OF MANITOWOC
900 Quay Street
Manitowoc, WI 54220

RE: Municipal Court Judgments

Dear Alder Howe:

In 2015, Council authorized the Court wipe out a batch of old judgments which were functionally and legally uncollectible. A couple months thereafter, a second batch was discovered which hadn't been included in the original request. Please find attached Council Document 15-0907 which was authorized on September 10, 2015 by your Committee. The attached follow-up letter dated November 17, 2015 was sent to Alder Able. No response was received.

In a nutshell, these judgments are so old they are functionally uncollectible. More importantly, my predecessor at one time offered non-paying defendants the option of paying or a 5 year drivers license suspension. Our old computer system was unable to track if a suspension was ordered. Several years ago, one defendant who's income tax refund had been grabbed brought in the attached letter he'd received from my predecessor in 1999, indicating he had suffered the 5 year suspension. We refunded the tax grab. If somehow these old judgments could be collected, it would be unlawful if the defendant had been suspended given the terms of the offer - and open the City up to civil liability if that had occurred.

The Public Safety Committee never responded to the 11/17/15 letter. Given that nearly two years has passed, changes have occurred to the amount of unpaid judgments. At this time the number of judgments is 7,704 citations, totaling \$1,172,025.65. Manually going through all those judgments to individually cancel them out would take weeks of the Court Clerk's time. Our computer software provider, TiPPS, has bid \$1500 to write a software program to wipe these out in a single batch. The proposal is attached.

I request this second batch of judgments be authorized for expungement by the software program. Finance Director Corbeille is quite familiar with the reasons for this request and the process involved to batch eliminate them. If you wish either of us to appear at your meeting to discuss this further, please advise.

Sincerely,

Steven R. Olson
Municipal Court Judge

Enclosures

pc: Steve Corbeille

Municipal Judge, Steven R. Olson

Municipal Court Clerk, Lynn Heyduk, lheyduk@manitowoc.org • Phone (920) 686-6920 • Fax (920) 686-6929
CITY HALL • 900 Quay Street • Manitowoc, WI 54220-4543

